

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
WEST DEVON

*Report to the Secretary of State for the
Environment, Transport and the Regions*

January 1999

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for West Devon.

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Local Government Commission for England

12 January 1999

Dear Secretary of State

On 13 January 1998, the Commission began a periodic electoral review of the borough of West Devon under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 30 June 1998 and undertook a ten-week period of consultation.

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have confirmed our draft recommendations for the Borough Council in their entirety, although some modifications have been made to parish warding arrangements (see paragraph 65) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in West Devon Borough.

We recommend that West Devon Borough Council should be served by 31 councillors representing 22 wards, and that some changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that elections should continue to take place every four years.

We note that you have now set out in the White Paper *Modern Local Government - In Touch with the People* (Cm 4014, HMSO), legislative proposals for a number of changes to local authority electoral arrangements. However, until such time as that new legislation is in place we are obliged to conduct our work in accordance with current legislation, and to continue our current approach to periodic electoral reviews.

I would like to thank members and officers of the Borough Council and other local people who have contributed to the review. Their co-operation and assistance have been very much appreciated by Commissioners and staff.

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman

SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of West Devon on 13 January 1998. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 30 June 1998, after which we undertook a ten-week period of consultation.

- **This report summarises the representations we have received during consultation on our draft recommendations, and offers our final recommendations to the Secretary of State.**

We found that the existing electoral arrangements provide unequal representation of electors in West Devon because:

- **in nine of the 21 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and three wards vary by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **this level of electoral equality is expected to deteriorate, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in 10 wards, and by more than 20 per cent in three wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figure 1 and paragraphs 65 to 66) are that:

- **West Devon Borough Council should be served by 31 councillors, one more than at present;**
- **there should be 22 wards, one more than at present;**
- **the boundaries of nine of the existing 21 wards should be modified, while 12 wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place every four years.**

These recommendations seek to ensure that the number of electors represented by each borough councillor is as nearly as possible the same, having regard to local circumstances.

- **In all 22 wards, the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average.**
- **By 2003 the number of electors per councillor is projected to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average in 20 of the 22 wards.**

Recommendations are also made for changes to parish and town council electoral arrangements. They provide for:

- **revised warding arrangements for Tavistock Town Council and Drewsteignton Parish Council;**
- **new warding arrangements for Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Hamlets, Meavy, Walkhampton and Buckland Monachorum parish councils.**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, who will not make an Order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 23 February 1999:

**The Secretary of State
Local Government Review
Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU**

*Figure 1:
The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
1 Bere Ferrers	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Bere Ferrers parish)	Map 2
2 Bridestowe	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Bratton, Bridestowe, Clovelly, Germansweek and Sourton)	Map 2
3 Buckland Monachorum	2	Buckland Monachorum ward (part – Buckland Village parish ward (as proposed) of Buckland Monachorum parish)	Maps 2 and A4
4 Burrator	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Meavy, Sheepstor and Walkhampton)	Maps 2 and A6
5 Chagford	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (Chagford parish)	Map 2
6 Drewsteignton	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Drewsteignton, Gidleigh, Spreyton and Throwleigh)	Maps 2 and A5
7 Exbourne	1	Exbourne ward (the parishes of Broadwoodkelly, Exbourne, Iddesleigh, Jacobstowe and Monkokehampton); Courtenay ward (part – Sampford Courtenay parish)	Map 2
8 Hatherleigh	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Hatherleigh, Highampton and Meeth)	Map 2
9 Lew Valley	1	Lew Valley ward (the parishes of Beaworthy, Inwardleigh and Northlew); Courtenay ward (part – Okehampton Brightleigh parish ward (as proposed) of Okehampton Hamlets parish)	Map 2 and Large Map
10 Lydford	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Dartmoor Forest and Lydford)	Map 2
11 Mary Tavy	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Brentor, Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy)	Map 2
12 Milton Ford	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Coryton, Dunterton, Kelly, Lewtrenchard, Marystow and Milton Abbot)	Map 2
13 Okehampton East	2	Okehampton ward (part – Okehampton East ward (as proposed) of Okehampton Town Council)	Large Map

Figure 1 (continued):
The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
14	Okehampton West	2	Okehampton ward (part – Okehampton West ward (as proposed) of Okehampton Town Council); Courtenay ward (part – Belstone parish and Okehampton Park parish ward (as proposed) of Okehampton Hamlets parish)	Large Map
15	Tamarside	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Gulworthy, Lamerton and Sydenham Damerel)	Map 2
16	Tavistock North	3	Tavistock North (part – Tavistock North ward of Tavistock Town Council (part))	Maps A2 and A3
17	Tavistock South	3	Tavistock South ward (part – Tavistock South ward of Tavistock Town Council (part)); Tavistock North ward (part – Tavistock North ward of Tavistock Town Council (part))	Maps A2 and A3
18	Tavistock South West	1	Tavistock South ward (part – Tavistock South ward (as proposed) of Tavistock Town Council (part))	Map A3
19	North Tawton	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Bondleigh and North Tawton)	Map 2
20	South Tawton	1	South Tawton ward (South Tawton parish); Courtenay ward (part – Sticklepath parish)	Map 2
21	Thrushel	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Lifton, Stowford and Thrushelton)	Map 2
22	Walkham	2	Walkham ward (the parishes of Horrbridge, Sampford Spiney and Whitchurch); Buckland Monachorum ward (part – Buckland Harrowbeer parish ward (as proposed) of Buckland Monachorum parish)	Maps 2 and A4

Notes: 1 West Devon Borough is entirely parished.

2 Map 2, the maps at Appendix A and the large map at the back of the report illustrate the proposed wards outlined above.

1. INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the borough of West Devon.

2 In undertaking these reviews, we have had regard to:

- the statutory criteria in section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992; and
- the *Rules to be Observed in Considering Electoral Arrangements* in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.

3 We have also had regard to our *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (published in March 1996, supplemented in September 1996 and updated in March 1998). This sets out our approach to the reviews.

4 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 13 January 1998, when we invited proposals for the future electoral arrangements from West Devon Borough Council, and copied the letter to Devon County Council, Devon & Cornwall Police, the local authority associations, the Devon Association of Parish Councils, the Members of Parliament and the Member of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, and the headquarters of the main political parties. At the start of the review, and following publication of our draft recommendations, we published a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited the Borough Council to publicise the review more widely. The closing date for receipt of representations was 20 April 1998. At Stage Two, we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

5 Stage Three began on 30 June 1998 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for West Devon*, and ended on 7 September 1998. Comments were sought on our preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four we reconsidered our draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation and now publish our final recommendations.

2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

⁶ West Devon borough covers an area of some 116,000 hectares and is geographically the largest borough in Devon. It is bounded to the west by the River Tamar which divides Devon and Cornwall, and stretches from the outskirts of Plymouth in the south for over 30 miles northwards. The main towns of West Devon are Tavistock and Okehampton, which serve the south and north of the borough respectively. The remainder of the borough is largely rural in character, and contains a significant part of the Dartmoor National Park. The borough is entirely parished.

⁷ To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards we calculated the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the borough average in percentage terms. In the text which follows this calculation may also be described using the shorthand term 'electoral variance'.

⁸ The electorate of the borough (February 1998) is 37,588. The Council presently has 30 councillors who are elected from 21 wards (Map 1 and Figure 2). Of these, three wards are each represented by three councillors, three wards each elect two councillors, while the remaining 15 are each represented by a single councillor. The Council currently holds whole council elections every four years.

⁹ Since the last electoral review, there has only been a minor increase in the electorate of the borough, with around 16 per cent more electors than two decades ago. At present, each councillor represents an average of 1,253 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts would increase to 1,316 electors by the year 2003, if the present number of councillors is maintained. The number of electors per councillor in nine of the 21 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average, and in three wards by more than 20 per cent. The worst imbalance is in Exbourne ward, in which the number of electors per councillor is 34 per cent below the borough average.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in West Devon



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KEY	
EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY	—————
EXISTING PARISH BOUNDARY	- - - - -

Key to Wards

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|----|--------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Bere Ferrers | 8 | Exbourne | 15 | Okehampton |
| 2 | Bridestowe | 9 | Hatherleigh | 16 | South Tawton |
| 3 | Buckland Monachorum | 10 | Lew Valley | 17 | Tamarside |
| 4 | Burrator | 11 | Lydford | 18 | Tavistock North |
| 5 | Chagford | 12 | Mary Tavy | 19 | Tavistock South |
| 6 | Courtenay | 13 | Milton Ford | 20 | Thruschel |
| 7 | Drewsteignton | 14 | North Tawton | 21 | Walkham |

Figure 2:
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Bere Ferrers	2	2,349	1,175	-6	2,448	1,224	-7
2 Bridestowe	1	1,192	1,192	-5	1,225	1,225	-7
3 Buckland Monachorum	2	2,842	1,421	13	2,980	1,490	13
4 Burrator	1	1,258	1,258	0	1,262	1,262	-4
5 Chagford	1	1,222	1,222	-2	1,233	1,233	-6
6 Courtenay	1	1,292	1,292	3	1,437	1,437	9
7 Drewsteignton	1	1,267	1,267	1	1,282	1,282	-3
8 Exbourne	1	828	828	-34	854	854	-35
9 Hatherleigh	1	1,269	1,269	1	1,422	1,422	8
10 Lew Valley	1	1,025	1,025	-18	1,061	1,061	-19
11 Lydford	1	1,097	1,097	-12	1,107	1,107	-16
12 Mary Tavy	1	1,289	1,289	3	1,304	1,304	-1
13 Milton Ford	1	1,109	1,109	-11	1,155	1,155	-12
14 North Tawton	1	1,253	1,253	0	1,290	1,290	-2
15 Okehampton	3	4,203	1,401	12	4,650	1,550	18
16 South Tawton	1	946	946	-25	955	955	-27
17 Tamarside	1	1,111	1,111	-11	1,151	1,151	-13
18 Tavistock North	3	4,004	1,335	7	4,281	1,427	8
19 Tavistock South	3	4,574	1,525	22	4,886	1,629	24

continued overleaf

Figure 2 (continued):
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
20 Thrushel	1	1,186	1,186	-5	1,208	1,208	-8
21 Walkham	2	2,272	1,136	-9	2,293	1,147	-13
Totals	30	37,588	—	—	39,484	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,253	—	—	1,316	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on West Devon Borough Council's submission.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, electors in Tavistock South ward are relatively under-represented by 22 per cent, while electors in South Tawton ward are relatively over-represented by 25 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

10 During Stage One, we received a representation from West Devon Borough Council and Councillor Mathew on electoral arrangements for the whole borough. Representations were also received from Torridge & West Devon Conservative Association and 13 parish and town councils. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in the report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for West Devon*.

11 Our draft recommendations were largely based on the Borough Council's scheme, which we considered achieved a good balance between securing reasonable electoral equality and reflecting the interests and identities of local communities in the borough. However, we proposed to depart from that scheme in a few areas. First, we were not persuaded that the existing South Tawton parish and ward should be divided between three new borough wards, and proposed that the existing South Tawton ward should be retained with the addition of Sticklepath parish. This in turn would retain the current North Tawton and Drewsteignton wards. Second, in Tavistock, while we considered that there was merit in the Borough Council's proposal to create three new wards, we proposed to transfer some 200 electors from Tavistock North ward to Tavistock South ward in order to achieve a greater level of electoral equality. Third, no warding arrangements were put forward for Okehampton and we decided to divide the area into two two-member wards (Okehampton East and Okehampton West) utilising the River Okement as a boundary and combining the new Okehampton West ward with the adjacent Belstone parish. We therefore proposed that:

- (a) West Devon Borough Council should be served by 31 councillors, representing 22 wards;
- (b) the boundaries of nine of the existing 21 wards should be modified, while 12 wards should retain their existing boundaries;
- (c) there should be modifications to the warding arrangements of Tavistock Town Council and Drewsteignton Parish Council;

- (d) there should be new warding arrangements for Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Hamlets, Meavy, Walkhampton and Buckland Monachorum parish councils.

Draft Recommendation

West Devon Borough Council should comprise 31 councillors, serving 22 wards. Elections should continue to take place every four years.

12 Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average in all 22 wards. By 2003 the number of electors per councillor is projected to vary by no more than 10 per cent in 20 of the 22 wards.

13 Our draft recommendations are summarised in Appendix B.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

14 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, nine representations were received. A list of respondents is available on request from the Commission's offices.

West Devon Borough Council

15 The Borough Council supported our draft recommendations.

Parish and Town Councils

16 Representations were received from four parish and town councils during Stage Three. Of those, Lewdown and North Tawton parish councils supported our draft recommendations for their own areas. Tavistock Town Council accepted the principle of three wards for the town but expressed concern at the "large disparity between the size of the smaller wards and that of the others".

17 Buckland Monachorum Parish Council strongly opposed the transfer of 300 electors from the Yelverton area of Buckland Monachorum ward to a revised Walkham ward as it considered that this would "not give fair representation". It also argued that the proposed distribution of parish councillors in the parish was "unbalanced".

Other Representations

18 We received a further four representations from local political groups, local councillors and residents.

19 Tavistock Branch Labour Party and Councillor Smith both supported our draft recommendations for Tavistock. Councillor Waterhouse welcomed our draft recommendations, although he considered that there was an "apparent incompatibility between the proposal to allocate four councillors to Meavy Village and three to Meavy Dousland" as this would result in a larger number of councillors

being allocated to the ward with the least number of electors. He proposed transferring 75 electors from Meavy Dousland parish ward to Meavy Village parish ward. He further proposed that the number of parish councillors representing Sheepsor parish meeting should be reviewed. A local resident opposed the transfer of 300 electors from the Yelverton area of Buckland Monachorum ward to a revised Walkham ward.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

20 As indicated previously, the Commission's prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for West Devon is to achieve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria set out in the Local Government Act 1992 and Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to the ratio of electors to councillors being "as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough".

21 However, our function is not merely arithmetical, for three reasons. First, our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on existing electorate figures, but also on assumptions as to changes in the number and distribution of local government electors likely to take place within the ensuing five years. Second, we must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries, and to maintaining local ties which might otherwise be broken. Third, we must consider the need to secure effective and convenient local government, and reflect the interests and identities of local communities.

22 It is therefore impractical to design an electoral scheme which provides for exactly the same number of electors per councillor in every ward of an authority. There must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach, in the context of the statutory criteria, is that such flexibility must be kept to a minimum.

23 Our *Guidance* states that, while we accept that the achievement of absolute electoral equality for an authority as a whole is likely to be unattainable, we consider that, if electoral imbalances are to be kept to a minimum, such an objective should be the starting point in any review. We therefore strongly recommend that, in formulating electoral schemes, local authorities and other interested parties should start from the standpoint of absolute electoral equality and only then make adjustments to reflect relevant factors, such as community identity. Regard must also be had to five-year forecasts of change in electorates. We will require particular justification for schemes which result in, or retain,

an imbalance of over 10 per cent in any ward. Any imbalances of 20 per cent and over should arise only in the most exceptional of circumstances, and will require the strongest justification.

Electorate Forecasts

24 During Stage One, the Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2003, projecting an increase in the electorate of some 5 per cent from 37,588 to 39,484 over the five-year period from 1998 to 2003. The Borough Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, and the expected rate of building over the five-year period. In our draft recommendations report we accepted that this is an inexact science, and having given consideration to the forecast electorates we were satisfied that they represented the best estimates that can reasonably be made at the time.

25 At Stage Three, we received no comments on the Council's electorate forecasts, and remain satisfied that they provide the best estimates presently available.

Council Size

26 We indicated in our *Guidance* that we would normally expect the number of councillors serving a borough council to be in the range of 30 to 60.

27 West Devon Borough Council is at present served by 30 councillors. At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed an increase in council size to 31, while Councillor Mathew proposed the retention of 30 councillors.

28 Having considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received, we concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be met by a council size of 31. We have not received evidence during Stage Three

to persuade us to move away from this view. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendation for a council size of 31 as final.

Electoral arrangements

²⁹ Having considered all representations received during Stages One and Three of the review, we have further considered our draft recommendations. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Lydford and Burrator wards;
- (b) Buckland Monachorum and Walkham wards;
- (c) Bere Ferrers and Tamarside wards;
- (d) Tavistock North and Tavistock South wards;
- (e) Mary Tavy, Milton Ford, Thrushel and Bridestowe wards;
- (f) Chagford, Drewsteignton, North Tawton and South Tawton wards;
- (g) Hatherleigh, Exbourne and Lew Valley wards;
- (h) Okehampton and Courtenay wards.

³⁰ Details of our final recommendations for the future electoral arrangements in West Devon are summarised in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated on Map 2, the maps at Appendix A and the large map at the back of the report.

Lydford and Burrator wards

³¹ Currently, Lydford ward comprises the parishes of Lydford and Dartmoor, while Burrator ward comprises the parishes of Meavy, Sheepstor and Walkhampton. Both wards lie within the Dartmoor National Park area, and contain a large number of small villages and hamlets. Lydford ward covers the largest area within the borough, but has one of the smallest electorates, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 12 per cent from the borough average (16 per cent by 2003). Burrator ward currently achieves good electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor equal to the average (4 per cent fewer by 2003).

³² At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed that there should be no change to the two wards. Councillor Mathew proposed that Dartmoor parish be combined with the existing Burrator ward together with the Clearbrook and Yelverton areas from Buckland Monachorum parish, to be represented by three councillors. Under his

proposals, Lydford parish would be combined with parishes to its west. Further submissions were received from the Conservative Association, which supported Councillor Mathew's proposals, and Burrator Parish Council, which requested to remain unchanged.

³³ In our draft recommendations report, we concluded that we should endorse the Borough Council's proposals for the retention of the existing electoral arrangements in the area. While we noted that Councillor Mathew's proposals would provide a better level of electoral equality, and that there would appear to be some links between the five parishes that would constitute the new Dartmoor ward, we were not persuaded that this ward would necessarily secure effective and convenient local government. We also had reservations over the proposal to separate Lydford parish from Dartmoor parish, and for Lydford parish to form a new ward with parishes to its west, all of which fall outside the Dartmoor National Park.

³⁴ At Stage Three, our draft recommendations were supported by the Borough Council. No other representations were received. In light of the absence of views expressed at Stage Three, we remain satisfied that our draft recommendations strike the best balance between securing electoral equality and reflecting the statutory criteria. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Buckland Monachorum and Walkham wards

³⁵ Under current arrangements, Buckland Monachorum has 13 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average, while the number of electors per councillor in Walkham ward varies by 9 per cent from the average.

³⁶ At Stage One, the Borough Council argued that a better level of electoral equality would be achieved by transferring the northern area of Buckland Monachorum parish, including Harrowbeer Lane, Clonway and Grange Road, to Walkham ward. As a result of this proposed change, the number of electors per councillors in the revised Buckland Monachorum ward would vary by 5 per cent from the borough average, while the number of electors per councillor in the revised Walkham ward would vary by 6 per cent from the average. Councillor Mathew proposed to reduce the number of councillors representing Buckland Monachorum

ward to one, and to combine the Yelverton and Clearbrook areas in a new three-member Dartmoor ward (as discussed above). No change was proposed to the existing warding arrangements for Walkham ward. This proposal was supported by the Conservative Association and Buckland Monachorum Parish Council. Horrabridge Parish Council requested to retain its electoral arrangements.

37 In our draft recommendations report, we endorsed the Borough Council's proposals. First, as discussed earlier, we did not consider that Councillor Mathew's proposal to transfer Yelverton and Clearbrook from Buckland Monachorum ward to a revised Dartmoor ward would satisfactorily reflect the interests and identities of communities in the area. Second, given the high level of electoral inequality in the area, we felt unable to recommend the retention of the existing arrangements. Under this proposal, the number of electors per councillor in the revised Buckland Monachorum and Walkham wards would vary by 5 per cent and 6 per cent from the borough average respectively (5 per cent more and 2 per cent more than the borough average by 2003).

38 During Stage Three, the Borough Council supported our draft recommendation. Buckland Monachorum Parish Council and a local resident opposed our draft recommendations. Buckland Monachorum Parish Council proposed that Walkham ward be combined with Buckland Monachorum ward, to be represented by four councillors.

39 Having given careful consideration to the representations received at Stage Three, we remain satisfied that our draft recommendations strike the best balance between securing electoral equality and reflecting the statutory criteria, and confirm them as final. We have considered Buckland Monachorum Parish Council's proposal, but note that this would result in a four-member ward. As indicated in our *Guidance*, we consider that "the number of electors per councillor to be returned from each ward should not exceed three, other than in very exceptional circumstances". We have not been persuaded that the case for a four-member ward covering the parishes of Buckland Monachorum and Walkham has been made.

Bere Ferrers and Tamarside wards

40 The wards of Bere Ferrers and Tamarside cover an area to the south west of the borough. Bere Ferrers ward comprises Bere Ferrers parish and is represented by two councillors. Tamarside ward comprises the

parishes of Gulworthy, Lamerton and Sydenham Damarel, and is represented by one councillor. Currently, while Bere Ferrers ward achieves good electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 6 per cent from the borough average, the number of electors per councillor in Tamarside varies by 11 per cent from the average.

41 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed that the current wards should remain unchanged. Councillor Mathew proposed that the current Bere Ferrers ward should be expanded, to include Gulworthy parish from the adjacent Tamarside ward. In addition, he proposed that the parishes of Lamerton and Sydenham Damarel be combined with Milton Abbot parish (currently in Milton Ford ward) to form a revised Milton Ford ward. Under Councillor Mathew's proposals, the number of electors per councillor in the revised Bere Ferrers and Milton Ford wards would vary by 8 per cent and 3 per cent from the borough average (7 per cent and 2 per cent by 2003). On the evidence received at Stage One, we were not persuaded that Councillor Mathew's proposed warding arrangements would represent a better balance between the statutory criteria and the need to secure electoral equality than the current arrangements. We considered that the existing wards currently achieved reasonable electoral equality and satisfactorily reflected the interests and identities of communities in the area. We therefore concurred with the view of the Borough Council, and proposed no change to the existing electoral arrangements for Bere Ferrers and Tamarside wards.

42 At Stage Three, the Borough Council supported our draft recommendations. No other comments were received. Accordingly, having given careful consideration to the warding arrangements for the area, we remain satisfied that our draft recommendations strike the best balance between securing electoral equality and reflecting the statutory criteria, and we have decided to confirm them as final. Under our final recommendations, Bere Ferrers and Tamarside wards would vary by 5 per cent and 6 per cent from the borough average respectively (5 per cent and 2 per cent from the borough average by 2003).

Tavistock North and Tavistock South wards

43 At present, Tavistock town comprises the wards of Tavistock South and Tavistock North. It has an electorate of 8,578, and is represented by six borough councillors. While Tavistock North ward

currently achieves reasonable electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 7 per cent from the average, the number of electors per councillor in Tavistock South ward varies by 22 per cent from the average. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate further over the next five years.

44 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed that Tavistock should in future be represented by seven councillors rather than six, as at present. However, it provided two options for the town. First, it proposed that Tavistock be divided into four wards - Tavistock North, Tavistock South, Tavistock South Whitchurch and Tavistock Crowndale - and be represented by three, two, one and one councillors, respectively. Alternatively, it proposed that there should be no change to the existing Tavistock North ward, but that Tavistock South be divided into a Tavistock South ward and a Tavistock South West ward, to be represented by three and one councillors, respectively. Both options provided for a similar level of electoral equality, and would result in the number of electors per councillor in all wards varying by less than 10 per cent from the borough average.

45 Councillor Mathew supported the Borough Council's proposal for an increase in the number of councillors for Tavistock from six to seven. However, he departed from the Borough Council's scheme by proposing to retain the existing boundaries of Tavistock North and Tavistock South wards, with an additional councillor in Tavistock South ward. While he noted that this would result in a four-member ward, he indicated that he would be supportive of a sensible sub-division, if this was considered desirable.

46 In our draft recommendations report we accepted the case made for an increase in the current level of representation for Tavistock. However, while we noted that the proposed warding arrangements all provided for improved electoral equality, Councillor Mathew's proposal would result in four councillors being returned in Tavistock South ward. We were not persuaded that the case for a four-member Tavistock South ward had been made. Therefore on balance, we were persuaded to substantially endorse the proposal for Tavistock town to be represented by three wards, as put forward by the Borough Council. We considered that this warding arrangement would better reflect the interests and identities in the town than the proposal to divide the town into four wards.

However, we noted that while the proposed Tavistock South West ward would achieve reasonable electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 4 per cent from the borough average, the proposed Tavistock North and Tavistock South wards would vary by 10 per cent above and 9 per cent below the average, respectively. Accordingly, we proposed to cross the river in the north of the town in order to transfer some 200 electors from Tavistock North ward to Tavistock South ward, as suggested by the Conservative Association.

47 At Stage Three, Tavistock Branch Labour Party and Councillor Smith supported our draft recommendations. Tavistock Town Council accepted the principle of three wards for the town, but expressed concern at the large disparity between the size of the smaller ward and that of the others. Having carefully considered the submissions received at Stage Three, we remain satisfied that our draft recommendations would strike the best balance between securing electoral equality and the statutory criteria, and confirm them as final. In particular, as indicated in our draft recommendations report, we note that the ward which would cross the river has good links with both sides, with a recently constructed trunk road providing direct access from one side of the river to the other. Under our recommendations, the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 5 per cent in all three wards. This level of electoral equality would deteriorate marginally over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor expected to vary by no more than 7 per cent from the average by 2003.

Mary Tavy, Milton Ford, Thrushel and Bridestowe wards

48 Mary Tavy, Milton Ford, Thrushel and Bridestowe wards cover a large rural area in the west of the borough. Currently, while there is reasonable electoral equality in Mary Tavy, Thrushel and Bridestowe wards, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 3 per cent, 5 per cent and 5 per cent from the borough average respectively, Milton Ford ward has 11 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average.

49 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed that there should be no change to the existing electoral arrangements in the four wards. However, while Councillor Mathew agreed that there should be no change to the existing electoral arrangements

in Mary Tavy ward, he proposed that the existing warding arrangements for Milton Ford, Thrushel and Bridestowe wards be reconfigured. Lewdown Grouped, Sourton and Lifton parish councils requested no change to their current arrangements.

50 In our draft recommendations report, we were not persuaded that Councillor Mathew's proposed warding arrangements would represent a better balance of the statutory criteria and the need to secure electoral equality than the current arrangements. We considered that the existing wards currently achieved reasonable electoral equality and satisfactorily reflected the interests and identities of communities in the area. We also noted that Councillor Mathew's proposed warding arrangements would require the endorsement of a three-member Dartmoor ward. We therefore endorsed the Borough Council's proposals for no change to the existing electoral arrangements for Mary Tavy, Milton Ford, Thrushel and Bridestowe wards.

51 At Stage Three, our draft recommendations were supported by the Borough Council. No other comments were received. Accordingly, we remain satisfied that the existing electoral arrangements would strike the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Chagford, Drewsteignton, North Tawton and South Tawton wards

52 The existing wards of Chagford, Drewsteignton, North Tawton and South Tawton all lie to the north-east of the Dartmoor Forest area. At present, while Chagford, Drewsteignton and North Tawton wards all enjoy good electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 2 per cent, 1 per cent and equal to the average respectively, the number of electors per councillor in South Tawton ward varies by 25 per cent from the average. This level of electoral inequality is not expected to improve over the next five years.

53 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed to split the existing South Tawton ward and parish, with part being combined with the parishes of Belstone and Sticklepath and parts being combined with the existing wards of North Tawton and Drewsteignton. No change was proposed to the existing Chagford ward. Councillor Mathew proposed that there should be no change to the

existing Chagford, Drewsteignton and North Tawton wards. However, he did not put forward any warding arrangements for the existing South Tawton ward, but indicated that this area should be combined with the existing Okehampton and Courtenay wards, to be represented by five councillors. North Tawton Parish Council requested no change to its current electoral arrangements, while South Tawton Parish Council requested that it be combined in a new ward with the parishes of Sticklepath and Belstone.

54 In our draft recommendations report, we were not persuaded that the Borough Council's proposed warding arrangements would represent a better balance of the statutory criteria and the need to secure electoral equality than the current arrangements. We noted that the Borough Council proposed resolving the existing level of over-representation in the existing South Tawton ward by dividing it between three wards. In our judgement, a better warding arrangement would be achieved by combining the existing South Tawton ward and parish with Sticklepath parish, with Belstone parish forming part of an Okehampton West ward. This would provide for no change to the existing arrangements in Chagford, Drewsteignton and North Tawton wards, as proposed by Councillor Mathew.

55 At Stage Three, our draft recommendations were supported by the Borough Council and North Tawton Town Council. Having given careful consideration to the representations received at Stage Three, we remain satisfied that our draft recommendations would strike the best balance between the statutory criteria and the need to secure equality of representation. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final. Under our recommendations, the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 4 per cent from the borough average in all four wards. This level of electoral equality would further improve over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor expected to vary by no more than 3 per cent from the average by 2003.

Hatherleigh, Exbourne and Lew Valley wards

56 Currently, while there is good electoral equality in Hatherleigh ward, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 1 per cent from the average, the wards of Exbourne and Lew Valley are

both significantly over-represented, with the number of electors per councillor varying from the borough average by 34 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively. This level of electoral equality is not projected to improve over the next five years.

57 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed improving the current electoral equality in Exbourne and Lew Valley wards by adding parts of the existing Courtenay ward to both wards. It proposed to join Sampford Courtenay parish to Exbourne ward and part of Okehampton Hamlets parish to Lew Valley ward. No change was proposed to Hatherleigh ward. Councillor Mathew agreed that there should be no change to the existing Hatherleigh ward, but proposed improving electoral equality in Exbourne and Lew Valley wards by transferring Inwardleigh parish to Exbourne ward (from Lew Valley ward) with the parishes of Bratton Clovelly and Sourton (currently in Bridestowe ward) becoming part of a revised Lew Valley ward.

58 In our draft recommendations report, we endorsed the Borough Council's proposals for the area, which we considered would represent a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than Councillor Mathew's proposals. We also noted that Councillor Mathew's proposed warding arrangements in this area would require the endorsement of his proposals elsewhere in the borough, including a number of southern wards, as already discussed.

59 At Stage Three, our draft recommendations were supported by the Borough Council. No other comments were received. We therefore remain satisfied that our draft recommendations would strike the best balance between the statutory criteria and the need to secure electoral equality, and confirm them as final. Under our recommendations Hatherleigh, Exbourne and Lew Valley wards would vary by 5 per cent, 5 per cent and 3 per cent from the borough average respectively (12 per cent, 4 per cent and 1 per cent by 2003).

Okehampton and Courtenay wards

60 The town of Okehampton lies to the west of the River Okement in the north of the borough, and is entirely surrounded by Courtenay ward. At present, the number of electors per councillor in Okehampton and Courtenay wards vary from the

borough average by 12 per cent and 3 per cent (18 per cent and 9 per cent by 2003).

61 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed that the existing Okehampton ward be combined with part of Okehampton Hamlets parish, to be represented by five councillors. It suggested that this area be divided into new wards, but did not provide precise warding details. It proposed to abolish the existing Courtenay ward, with the parishes of Sticklepath and Belstone being combined with part of South Tawton parish, Sampford Courtenay parish being merged with the existing Exbourne ward and part of Okehampton Hamlets parish being merged with Lew Valley ward, as already discussed. Councillor Mathew did not put forward any warding arrangements for the existing Courtenay and Okehampton wards. Nevertheless, he indicated that this area should be represented by five councillors. While he acknowledged that this would not be acceptable, he proposed that the area be divided into a new Town ward, comprising three or four councillors, and a rural ward, comprising one or two councillors.

62 In our draft recommendations report, we considered that neither of the two schemes satisfactorily addressed the warding arrangements for Okehampton town. Instead, we recommended that the town be divided into two two-member wards (Okehampton East and Okehampton West) utilising the river as a boundary, as far as possible, and combining the new Okehampton West ward with part of the adjacent Okehampton Hamlets parish and Belstone parish, with which there is a natural affinity. While we sought to propose a boundary line that followed the River Okement, as far as possible, we considered that it was necessary to cross the river in the centre of the town in order to transfer some 200 electors from Okehampton East ward to Okehampton West ward. However, we noted that the ward which would cross the river had good links with both sides, including East Bridge. We further noted that the main shopping centre for the town covers areas both east and west of the river.

63 Our draft recommendations were supported by the Borough Council. No other comments were received. Accordingly, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final. Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Okehampton East and Okehampton West wards would vary by 9 per cent and 1 per cent

fewer electors per councillor than the borough average. However, electoral equality would improve over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor in the two wards projected to vary by no more than 3 per cent from the average.

Electoral Cycle

64 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that the present system of whole council elections in West Devon be retained. No contrary representations were received on this issue, and we have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Conclusions

65 Having considered all the representations and evidence received, we have decided to substantially endorse our draft recommendations, subject to Meavy parish council comprising seven parish councillors representing two wards, with the proposed Meavy Village parish ward being represented by three parish councillors and the proposed Meavy Dousland parish ward being represented by four parish councillors.

66 We have concluded that, in West Devon:

- (a) there should be an increase in council size from 30 to 31;
- (b) there should be 22 wards, one more than at present;
- (c) the boundaries of nine of the existing wards should be modified;
- (d) elections of the whole council should continue to be held every four years.

67 Figure 3 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1998 and 2003 electorate figures.

68 As shown in Figure 3, our final recommendations for West Devon Borough Council would result in the number of electors per councillor varying by less than 10 per cent from the average in all wards. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate marginally over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor in two wards projected to vary by more than 10 per cent from the borough average. Our final recommendations are set out in more detail in Figures 1 and 5, and illustrated on Map 2, the maps at Appendix A and the large map at the back of the report.

*Figure 3:
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements*

	1998 electorate		2003 forecast electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	30	31	30	31
Number of wards	21	22	21	22
Average number of electors per councillor	1,253	1,213	1,316	1,274
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	9	0	10	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	3	0	3	0

Final Recommendation

West Devon Borough Council should comprise 31 councillors serving 22 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated on Map 2, the maps at Appendix A and the large map at the back of this report. The Council should continue to hold elections every four years.

Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements

69 In undertaking reviews of electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the provisions set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act. The schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different borough wards, it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the borough. Accordingly, we propose a number of consequential parish ward changes, as detailed below.

70 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Tavistock Town Council should in future comprise 17 councillors, and that the number of wards should be increased from two to three. We further proposed that the boundaries of the new wards should reflect proposed changes at borough level. We have received no evidence to persuade us to move away from this view.

Final Recommendation

Tavistock Town Council should comprise 17 councillors representing three wards, with the proposed Tavistock North ward being represented by eight town councillors, the proposed Tavistock South ward being represented by seven town councillor and the proposed Tavistock South West ward being represented by two councillors. The proposed town wards should reflect the proposed new borough wards, as illustrated on Maps A2 and A3 at Appendix A.

71 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Okehampton Town Council should continue to comprise 14 town councillors, representing two new wards. We further proposed that the boundaries of the new wards should reflect proposed changes at borough ward level. We have received no evidence to persuade us to move away from this view.

Final Recommendation

Okehampton Town Council should comprise 14 town councillors representing two wards, with the proposed Okehampton East and Okehampton West wards each being represented by seven town councillors. The proposed town wards should reflect the proposed new borough wards, as illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

72 In our draft recommendations report we proposed that Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council should continue to comprise eight parish councillors, representing two new wards. We further proposed that the boundaries of the new parish wards should reflect proposed changes at borough ward level. We have received no evidence to persuade us to move away from this view.

Final Recommendation

Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council should comprise eight parish councillors, representing two parish wards, with the Okehampton Park ward being represented by five councillors and Okehampton Brightleigh ward by three councillors. The proposed parish wards should reflect the proposed new borough wards, as illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

73 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Buckland Monachorum Parish Council continue to comprise 12 parish councillors, representing two new wards. We

further proposed that the boundaries of the new wards should reflect proposed changes at borough ward level. We have received no evidence to persuade us to move away from this view.

Final Recommendation

Buckland Monachorum Parish Council should comprise 12 parish councillors representing two wards, with the proposed Buckland Village ward being represented by ten parish councillors and the proposed Buckland Harrowbeer ward being represented by two parish councillors. The proposed parish wards should reflect the proposed new borough wards, as illustrated on Map A4 at Appendix A.

74 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Drewsteignton Parish Council should in future comprise nine parish councillors, and that the number of wards should be increased from two to four. We have received no evidence to persuade us to move away from this view.

Final Recommendation

Drewsteignton Parish Council should comprise nine parish councillors representing four wards, with the proposed Drewsteignton and Whiddon Down wards each being represented by three parish councillors, the proposed Crockernwell ward being represented by two parish councillors and the proposed Venton ward being represented by one parish councillor. The proposed parish wards are illustrated on Map A5 at Appendix A.

75 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Walkhampton Parish Council should continue to comprise seven parish councillors, representing two new wards. We have received no evidence to persuade us to move away from this view.

Final Recommendation

Walkhampton Parish Council should comprise seven parish councillors representing two

wards, with the proposed Walkhampton Village ward being represented by three parish councillors and the proposed Walkhampton Dousland ward being represented by four parish councillors. The proposed parish wards are illustrated on Map A6 at Appendix A.

76 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Meavy Parish Council should continue to comprise seven parish councillors, representing two new wards, with the proposed Meavy Village ward being represented by four parish councillors and the proposed Meavy Dousland ward being represented by three parish councillors. At Stage Three, a local councillor proposed that a more equitable distribution of parish councillors would be for Meavy Village parish ward to be represented by three parish councillors and Meavy Dousland parish ward to be represented by four parish councillors. Having considered our draft recommendations further, we are content to endorse this change and therefore propose to modify our draft recommendations.

Final Recommendation

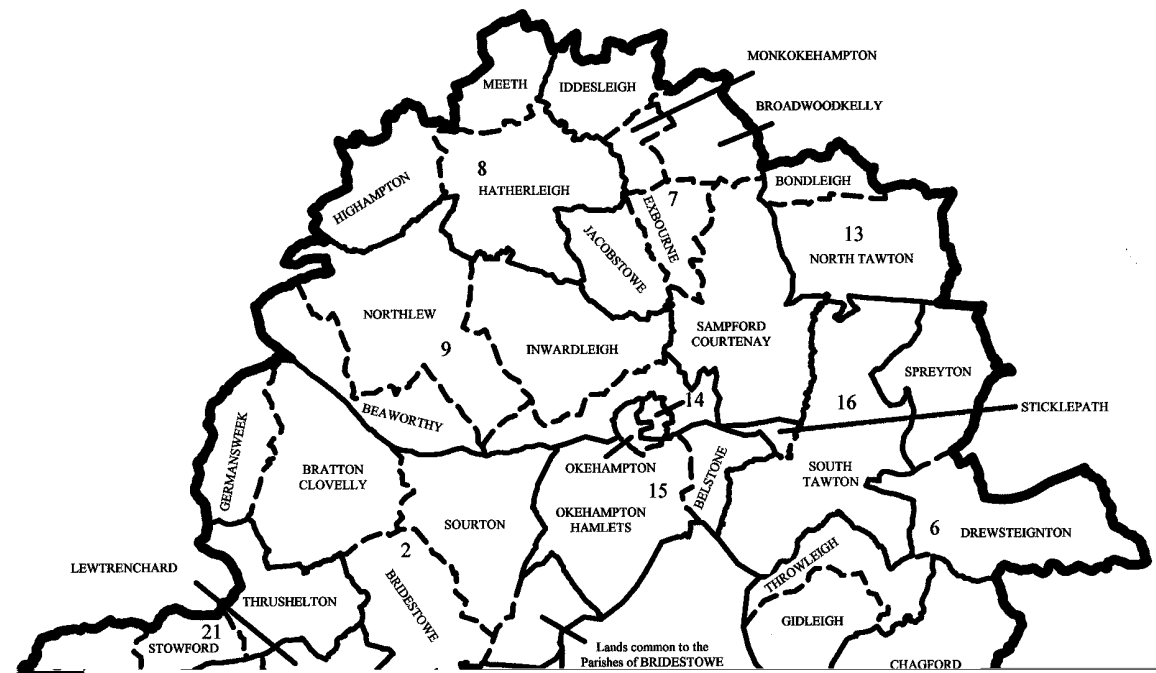
Meavy Parish Council should comprise seven parish councillors representing two wards, with the proposed Meavy Village ward being represented by three parish councillors and the proposed Meavy Dousland ward being represented by four parish councillors. The proposed parish wards are illustrated on Map A6 at Appendix A.

77 In our draft recommendations report we did not propose any change to the electoral cycle of parish and town councils in the borough. No contrary representations were received on this issue, and we have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendation as final.

Final Recommendation

Elections for parish and town councils should continue to be held at the same time as elections for principal authorities.

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for West Devon



	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bere Ferrers	2	2,349	1,175	-3	2,448	1,224	-4
2	Bridestowe	1	1,192	1,192	-2	1,225	1,225	-4
3	Buckland Monachorum	2	2,542	1,271	5	2,680	1,340	5
4	Burrator	1	1,258	1,258	4	1,262	1,262	-1
5	Chagford	1	1,222	1,222	1	1,233	1,233	-3
6	Drewsteignton	1	1,267	1,267	4	1,282	1,282	1
7	Exbourne	1	1,270	1,270	5	1,328	1,328	4
8	Hatherleigh	1	1,269	1,269	5	1,422	1,422	12
9	Lew Valley	1	1,175	1,175	-3	1,261	1,261	-1
10	Lydford	1	1,097	1,097	-10	1,107	1,107	-13
11	Mary Tavy	1	1,289	1,289	6	1,304	1,304	2
12	Milton Ford	1	1,109	1,109	-9	1,155	1,155	-9
13	Okehampton East	2	2,196	1,098	-9	2,626	1,313	3
14	Okehampton West	2	2,400	1,200	-1	2,478	1,239	-3
15	Tamarside	1	1,111	1,111	-8	1,151	1,151	-10
16	Tavistock North	3	3,805	1,268	5	4,081	1,360	7
17	Tavistock South	3	3,509	1,170	-4	3,737	1,246	-2
18	Tavistock South West	1	1,264	1,264	4	1,349	1,349	6
19	North Tawton	1	1,253	1,253	3	1,290	1,290	1

Figure 4 (continued):

The Commission's Final Recommendations for West Devon

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
20 South Tawton	1	1,253	1,253	3	1,264	1,264	-1
21 Thrushel	1	1,186	1,186	-2	1,208	1,208	-5
22 Walkham	2	2,572	1,286	6	2,593	1,297	2
Totals	31	37,588	—	—	39,484	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,213	—	—	1,274	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on West Devon Borough Council's submission.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

6. NEXT STEPS

78 Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in West Devon and submitted our final recommendations to the Secretary of State, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992.

79 It now falls to the Secretary of State to decide whether to give effect to our recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an Order. Such an Order will not be made earlier than six weeks from the date that our recommendations are submitted to the Secretary of State.

80 All further correspondence concerning our recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to:

The Secretary of State
Local Government Review
Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

APPENDIX A

Final Recommendations for West Devon: Detailed Mapping

The following maps illustrate the Commission's proposed ward boundaries for the West Devon area.

Map A1 illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the borough and indicates the area which is shown in more detail on the large map at the back of the report.

Map A2 illustrates the proposed ward boundary between the revised Tavistock North and Tavistock South wards.

Map A3 illustrates the proposed ward boundary between the revised Tavistock South ward and the new Tavistock South West ward.

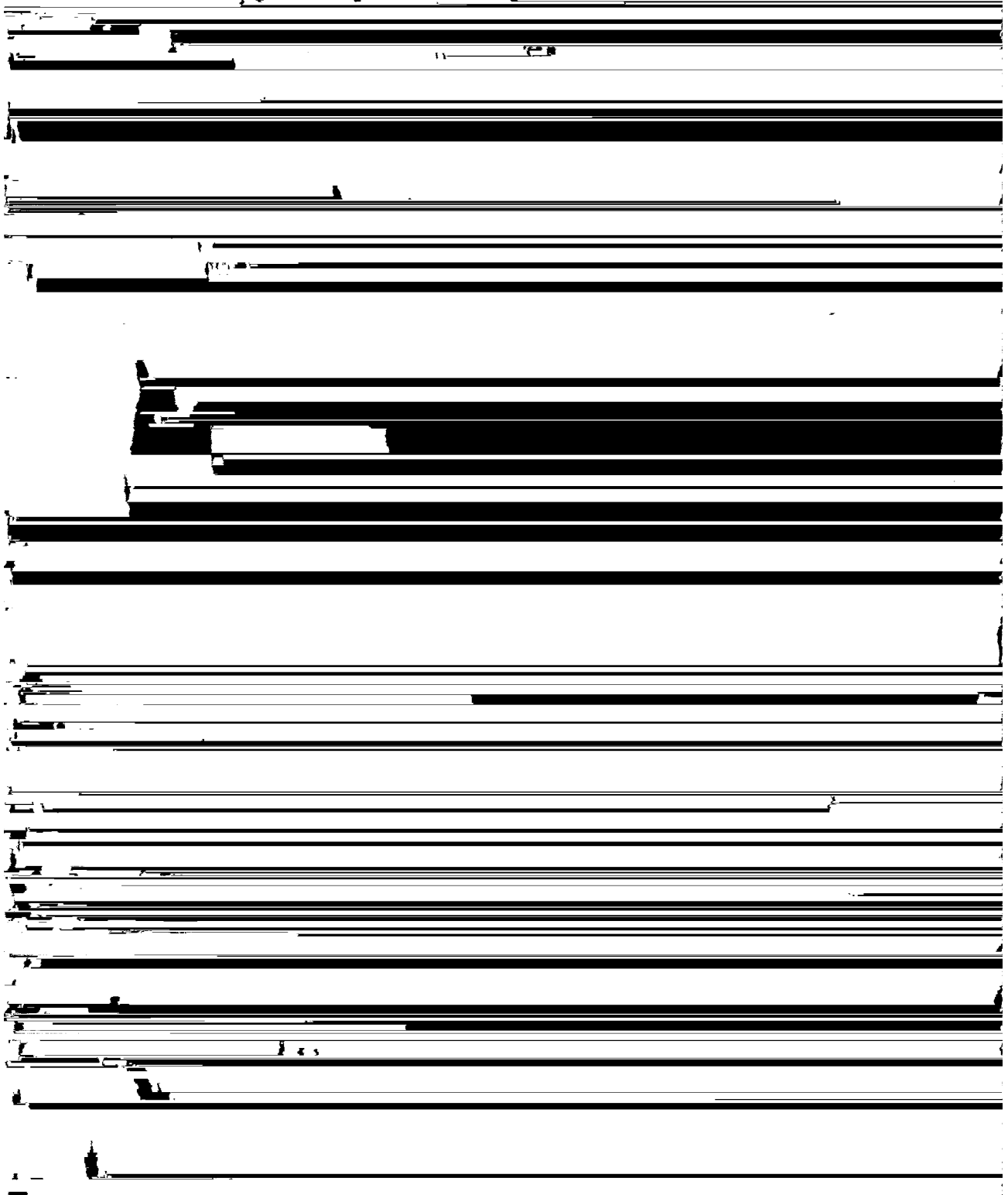
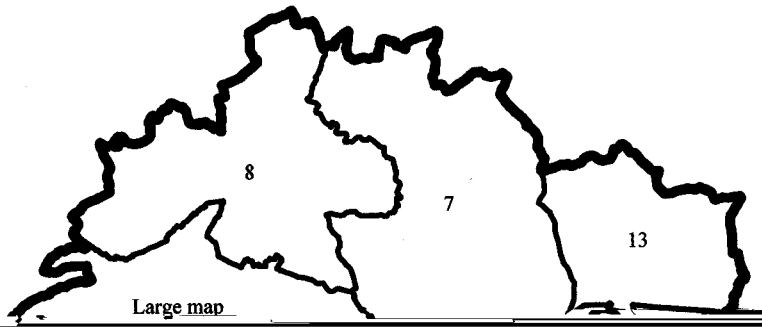
Map A4 illustrates the proposed parish warding arrangements in Buckland Monachorum parish.

Map A5 illustrates the proposed parish warding arrangements in Drewsteignton parish.

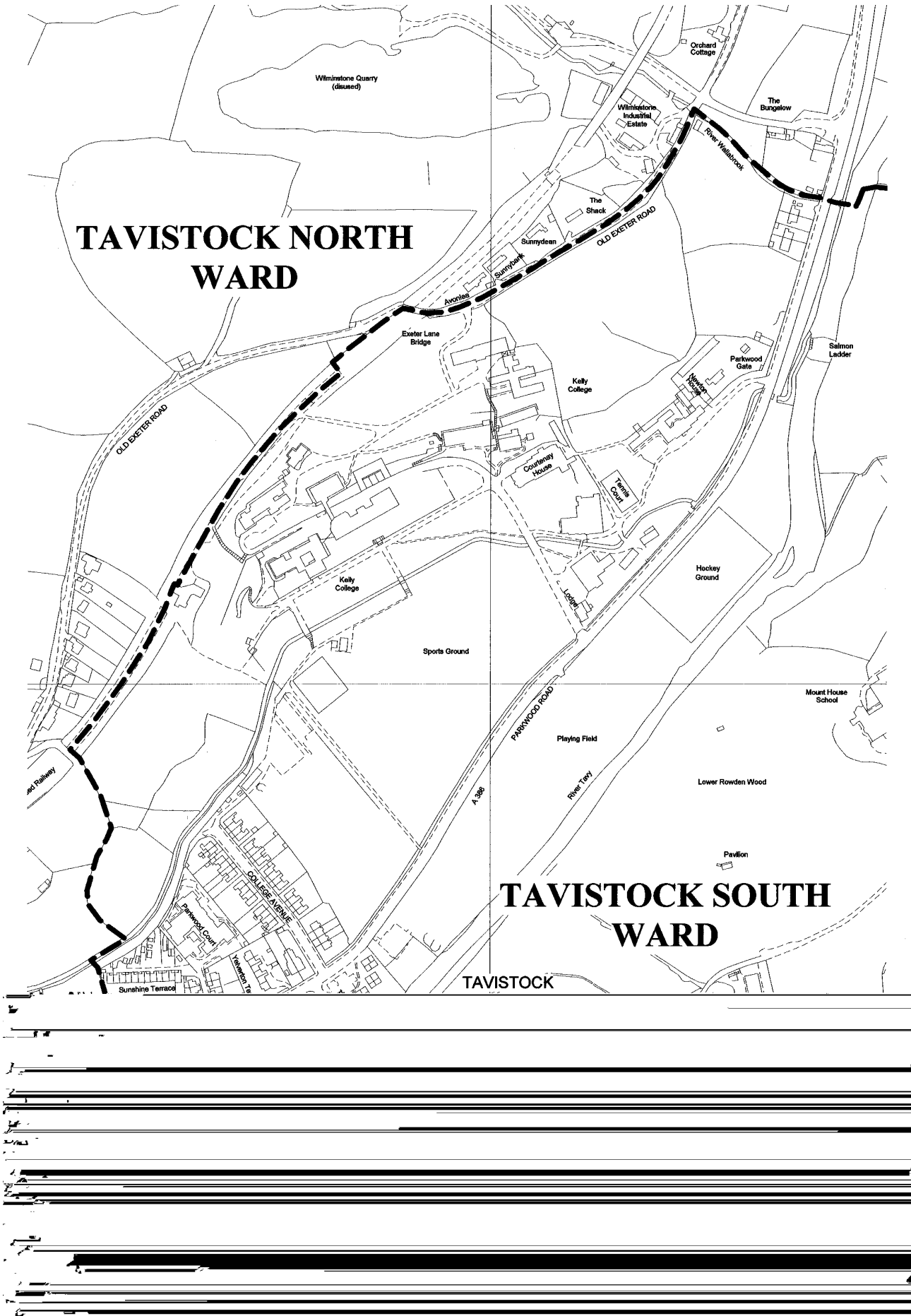
Map A6 illustrates the proposed parish warding arrangements in the parishes of Walkhampton and Meavy.

The **large map** inserted in the back of the report illustrates the proposed warding arrangements for Okehampton.

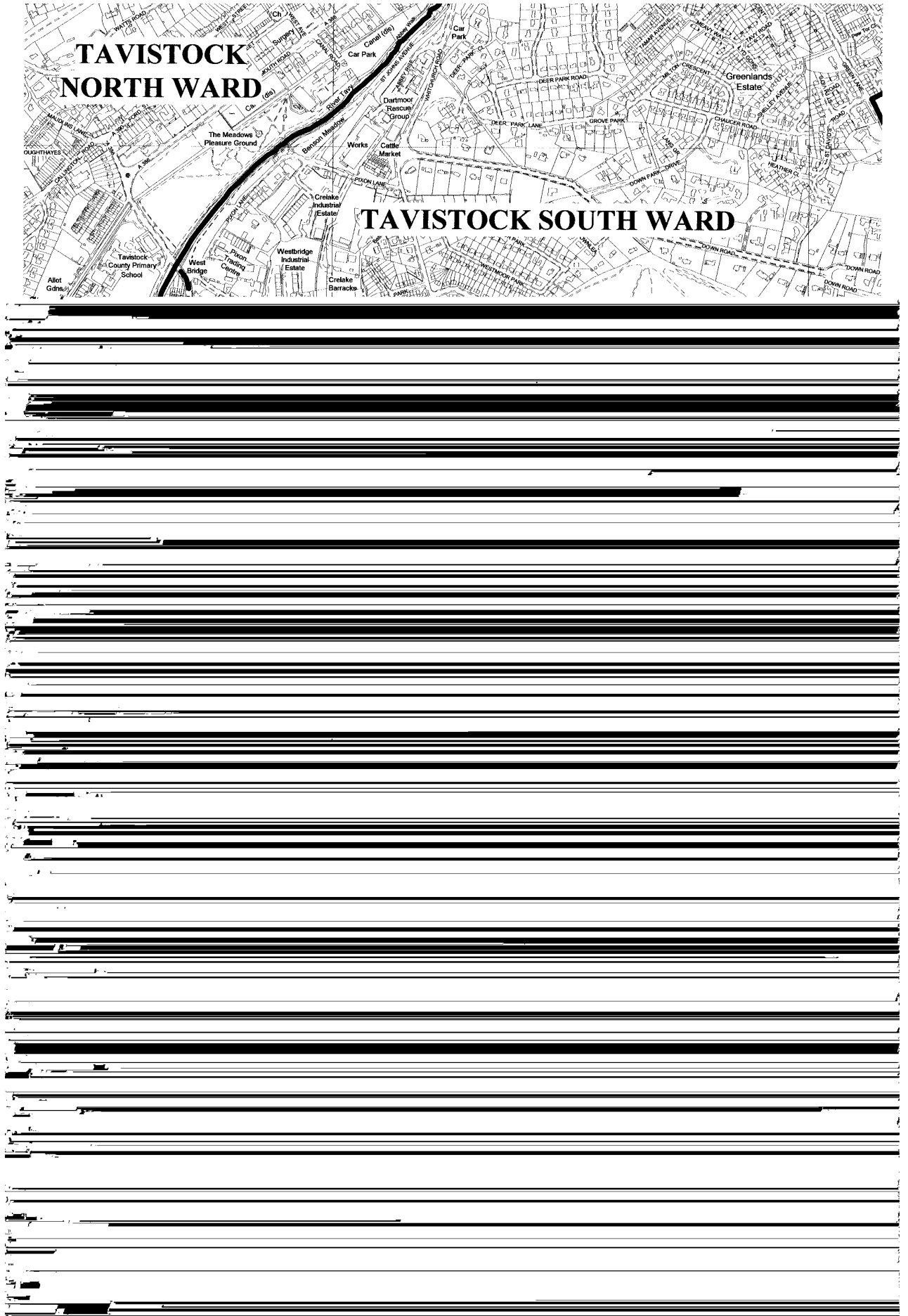
Map A1:
Final Recommendations for West Devon: Key Map



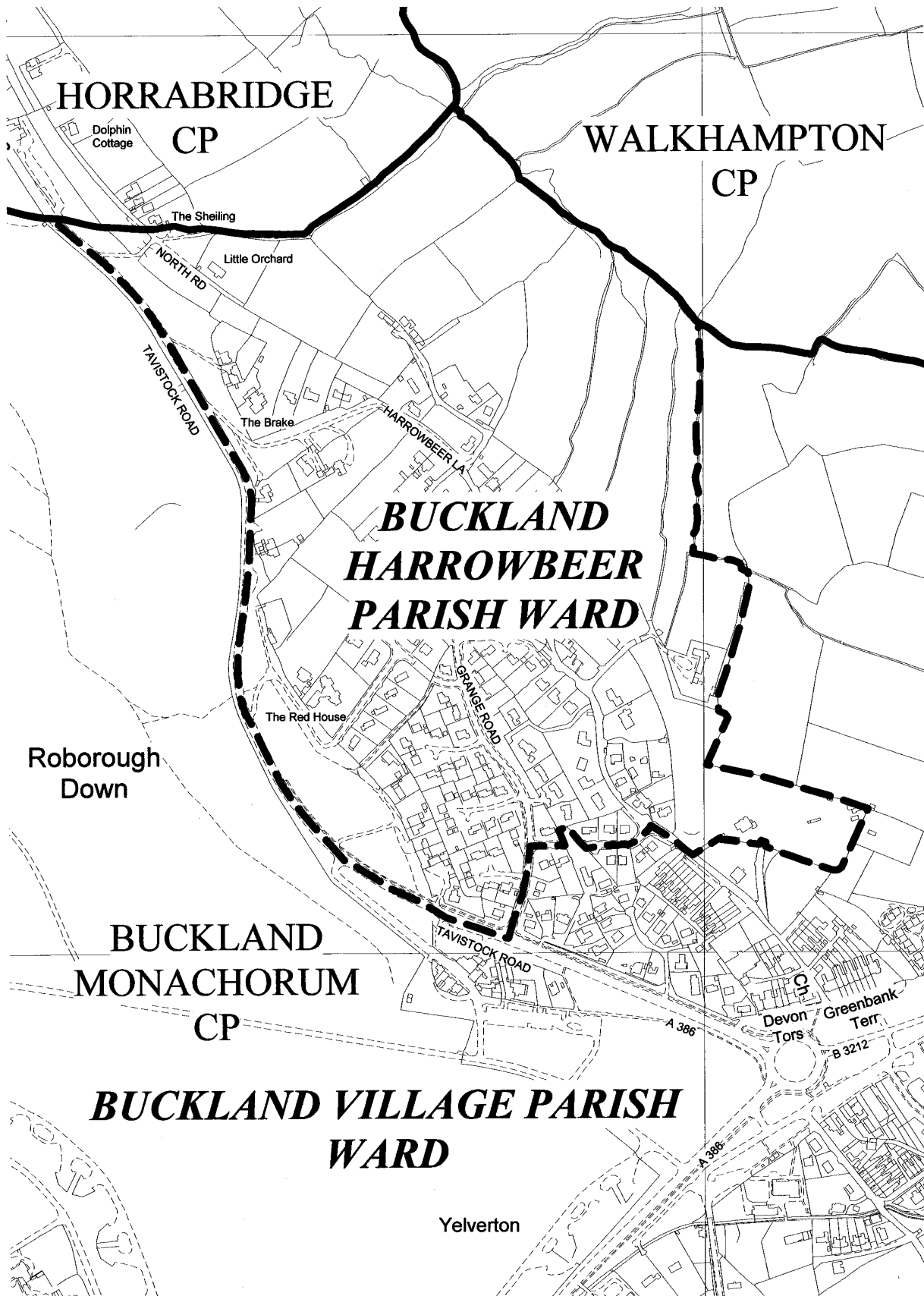
Map A2:
Proposed Ward Boundary Between Tavistock North and Tavistock South Wards



Map A3:
Proposed Ward Boundary Between Tavistock South and Tavistock South West Wards



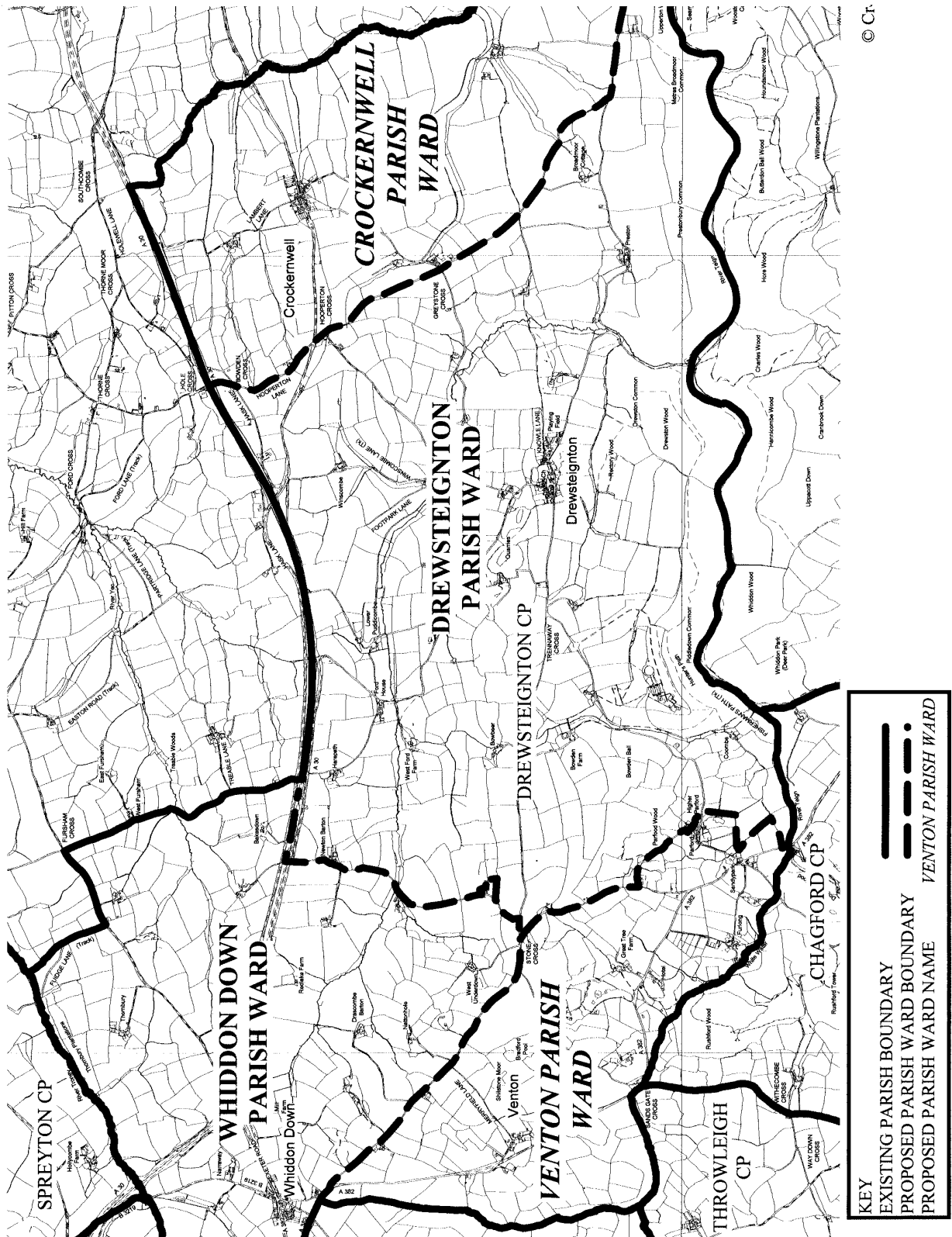
Map A4:
 Proposed Warding Arrangements for Buckland Monachorum Parish



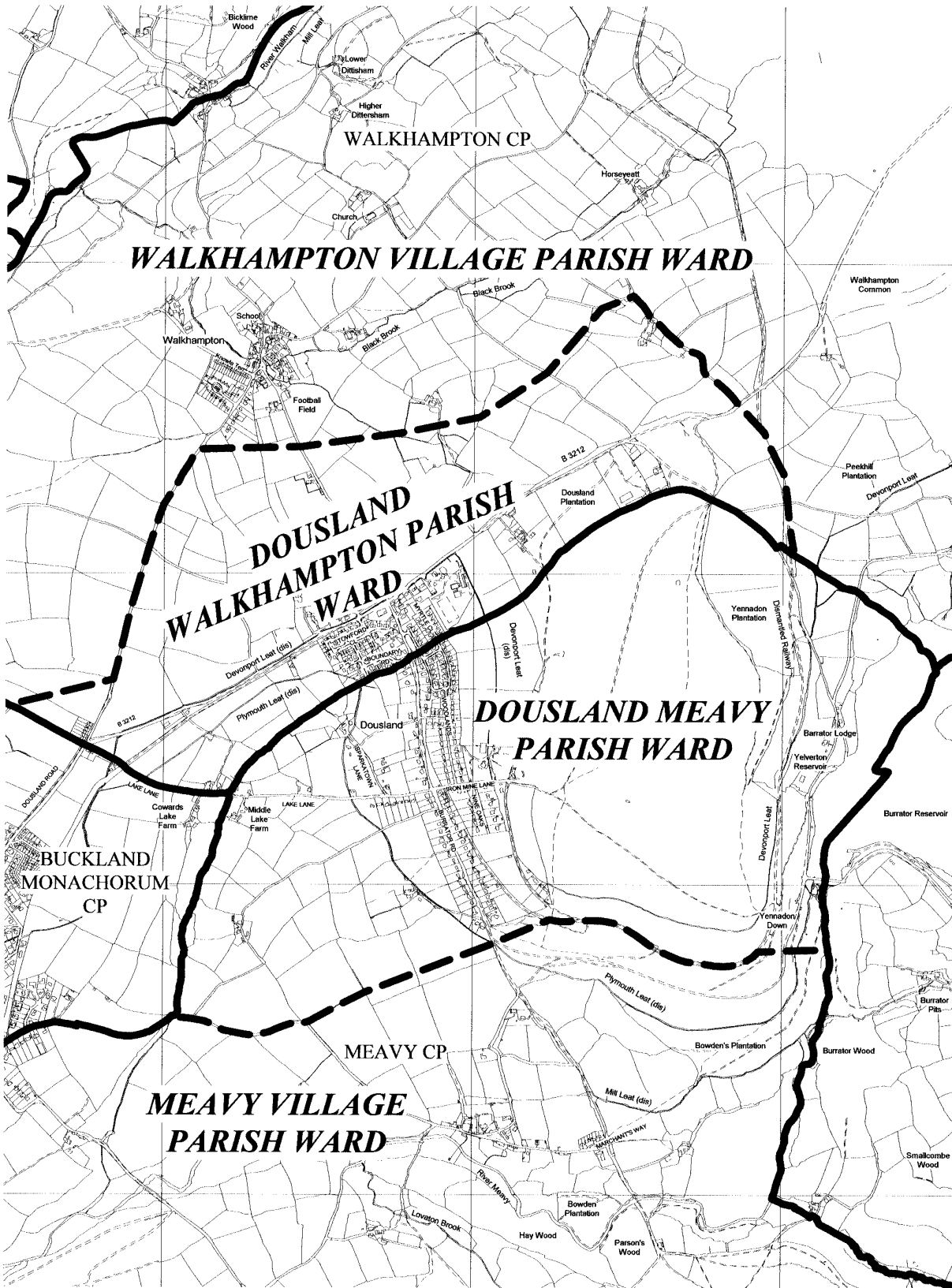
KEY	
EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY	
PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY	
PROPOSED WARD NAME	<i>BUCKLAND VILLAGE PARISH WARD</i>

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Map A5:
Proposed Warding Arrangements for Drewsteigton Parish



Map A6:
 Proposed Warding Arrangements for the parishes of Walkhampton and Meavy



KEY	
EXISTING PARISH BOUNDARY	
PROPOSED PARISH WARD BOUNDARY	
PROPOSED WARD NAME	<i>MEAVY VILLAGE PARISH WARD</i>

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APPENDIX B

Draft Recommendations for West Devon:

*Figure B1:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas*

Ward name	Constituent areas
1 Bere Ferrers	<i>Unchanged</i> (Bere Ferrers parish)
2 Bridestowe	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Bratton, Bridestowe, Clovelly, Germansweek and Sourton)
3 Buckland Monachorum	Buckland Monachorum ward (part – Buckland Village parish ward (as proposed) of Buckland Monachorum parish)
4 Burrator	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Meavy, Sheepstor and Walkhampton)
5 Chagford	<i>Unchanged</i> (Chagford parish)
6 Drewsteignton	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Drewsteignton, Gidleigh, Spreyton and Throwleigh)
7 Exbourne	Exbourne ward (the parishes of Broadwoodkelly, Exbourne, Iddlesleigh, Jacobstowe and Monkokehampton); Courtenay ward (part – Sampford Courtenay parish)
8 Hatherleigh	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Hatherleigh, Highampton and Meeth)
9 Lew Valley	Lew Valley ward (the parishes of Beaworthy, Inwardleigh and Northlew); Courtenay ward (part – Okehampton Brightleigh parish ward (as proposed) of Okehampton Hamlets parish)
10 Lydford	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Dartmoor Forest and Lydford)
11 Mary Tavy	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Brentor, Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy)
12 Milton Ford	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Coryton, Dunterton, Kelly, Lewtrenchard, Marystow, Bradstone and Milton Abbot)
13 Okehampton East	Okehampton ward (part – Okehampton East ward (as proposed) of Okehampton Town Council)
14 Okehampton West	Okehampton ward (part – Okehampton West ward (as proposed) of Okehampton Town Council); Courtenay ward (part – Belstone parish and Okehampton Park parish ward (as proposed) of Okehampton Hamlets parish)

continued overleaf

*Figure B1 (continued):
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas*

Ward name	Constituent areas
15 Tamarside	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Gulworthy, Lamerton and Sydenham Damerel)
16 Tavistock North	Tavistock North (part – Tavistock North ward of Tavistock Town Council (part))
17 Tavistock South	Tavistock South ward (part – Tavistock South ward of Tavistock Town Council (part)); Tavistock North ward (part – Tavistock North ward of Tavistock Town Council (part))
18 Tavistock South West	Tavistock South ward (part – Tavistock South ward (as proposed) of Tavistock Town Council (part))
19 North Tawton	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Bondleigh and North Tawton)
20 South Tawton	South Tawton ward (South Tawton parish); Courtenay ward (part – Sticklepath parish)
21 Thrushel	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Lifton, Stowford and Thrushelton)
22 Walkham	Walkham ward (the parishes of Horrabridge, Sampford Spiney and Whitchurch); Buckland Monachorum ward (part – Buckland Harrowbeer parish ward (as proposed) of Buckland Monachorum parish)

Figure B2:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for West Devon

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Bere Ferrers	2	2,349	1,175	-3	2,448	1,224	-4
2 Bridestowe	1	1,192	1,192	-2	1,225	1,225	-4
3 Buckland Monachorum	2	2,542	1,271	5	2,680	1,340	5
4 Burrator	1	1,258	1,258	4	1,262	1,262	-1
5 Chagford	1	1,222	1,222	1	1,233	1,233	-3
6 Drewsteignton	1	1,267	1,267	4	1,282	1,282	1
7 Exbourne	1	1,270	1,270	5	1,328	1,328	4
8 Hatherleigh	1	1,269	1,269	5	1,422	1,422	12
9 Lew Valley	1	1,175	1,175	-3	1,261	1,261	-1
10 Lydford	1	1,097	1,097	-10	1,107	1,107	-13
11 Mary Tavy	1	1,289	1,289	6	1,304	1,304	2
12 Milton Ford	1	1,109	1,109	-9	1,155	1,155	-9
13 Okehampton East	2	2,196	1,098	-9	2,626	1,313	3
14 Okehampton West	2	2,400	1,200	-1	2,478	1,239	-3
15 Tamarside	1	1,111	1,111	-8	1,151	1,151	-10
16 Tavistock North	3	3,805	1,268	5	4,081	1,360	7
17 Tavistock South	3	3,509	1,170	-4	3,737	1,246	-2
18 Tavistock South West	1	1,264	1,264	4	1,349	1,349	6
19 North Tawton	1	1,253	1,253	3	1,290	1,290	1
20 South Tawton	1	1,253	1,253	3	1,264	1,264	-1

continued overleaf

Figure B2 (continued):
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for West Devon

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
21 Thrushel	1	1,186	1,186	-2	1,208	1,208	-5
22 Walkham	2	2,572	1,286	6	2,593	1,297	2
Totals	31	37,588	—	—	39,484	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,213	—	—	1,274	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on West Devon Borough Council's submission.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

